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The Spectator

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Number 2

REAL Program in South Residence Hall discontinued

by Amanda Kim '20
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Last fall, the Committee on Academic Policy (CAP) made the decision to discontinue the long-running Residential Engagement in Academic Life (REAL) program.

The program, which was open only to first-year students, was an optional part of the first-year experience. Students who opted in lived on the third and fourth floors of South Residence Hall and took one course with other students participating in the program.

Classes were limited to 15 spaces, while the entire program always consisted of 60 students total. The faculty members involved also agreed to take on all students enrolled in their REAL program course as advisees.

The classes offered changed by year, but diversity in courses was a key consideration for Tessa Chefalo.

Chefalo, who serves as the Director of Orientation and First-Year Programs in the Residential Life department, took over the REAL program in the Spring of 2015 following former Associate Dean of Students Meredith Bonham's departure from the college.

For Chefalo, the main goal of the program was to provide students with a chance to not only get to know their advisor better but also to live in an engaging and supportive learning environment, bridging the gap that might exist for some students between academic and residential life. "If you're in a REAL course and you are struggling with an assignment or you want to talk through something with somebody, those people are all right down the hall from you," Chefalo said. "So it created a really unique opportunity for students to think critically and talk about what they were thinking about in the classroom outside of the classroom."

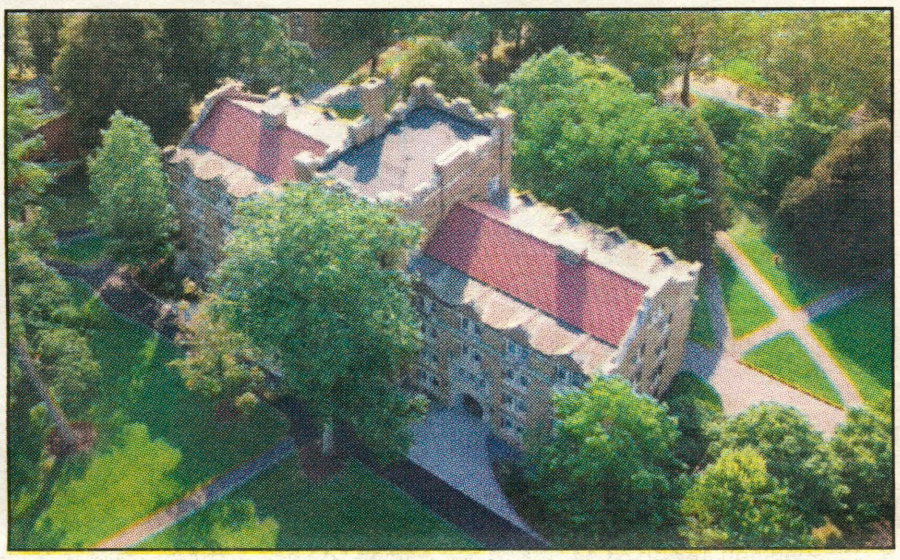


PHOTO BY JERRY TANG '21

The third and fourth floors of South Residence Hall housed members of the REAL Program, open to 60 First-Year students.

Professor of Literature Vincent Odamtten taught in the REAL program for three years with the course Literary CSI.

As a faculty member, Odamtten enjoyed participating in the REAL program."I got to know the students in a way in which some discussions in class revolved around a common set of experiences, good or bad," Odamtten said. "What I felt was good about it was that all of the students were also my advisees, and we bonded around the course as well as other activities."

Other activities meant movie screenings, dinners, receptions or other activities exclusively for REAL program courses. REAL program faculty were allotted funding from the First-Year Experience budget to further bond with their students and advisees.

That bonding, Odamtten and Chefalo believe, was a success. Students who took part in the REAL program generally expressed satisfaction, and the program was continually popular with incoming freshmen.

Chefalo reported that approximately 75-80 students expressed interest in joining, and the 60 spots were thus always filled.

However, Odamtten was not entirely surprised when he found out that REAL was finished.

"I had a sense that [the REAL program] might be discontinued before it was," Odamtten said, citing pressures on resources in a small residential college as one reason the program might have been terminated.

One difficulty lay in the fact that faculty members' leave schedules could sometimes conflict with their participation.

CAP did not publicly announce their reasoning behind the decision to abolish REAL, and Odamtten does not see it coming back — at least not in the same way.

"It was sort of built in that it needed to have a review at some point and to see whether we could go on," Odamtten said. "I think there were more logistical reasons behind the program's ending, but programs like this always need to be assessed and reassessed. They can't go on forever."

Community rallies around beloved professor

by Gabriella Foster '18
STAFF WRITER

After speaking with colleagues, friends and students, it is clear that there is nothing but respect, affection and admiration for Professor Bob Simon, the Walcott-Bartlett Professor Emeritus of Philosophy.

Coming to the Hill in 1968, Simon has been a teacher, mentor, friend and coach for countless individuals at Hamilton.

As an esteemed member of the Hamilton community, it comes as no surprise that they have rallied around Bob and his wife Joy during their time of need. After being diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, Hamilton professors, colleagues and students have shown an outpouring of support for Professor Simon and his family.

"The support has been overwhelming from all areas of the community including faculty, the members of my department, coaches, students, staff and Physical Plant, alumni and athletic teams, especially the teams I have worked most closely with, coaching Hamilton golf and advising women's basketball" said Simon.

Not only a highly respected professor and coach, Simon is beloved by faculty and students alike. "Bob has been a constant source of humor, intelligence and integrity. You can feel it when he is in the building or on the field!" said Professor Katheryn Doran. "Good energy always follows in his wake," stated Doran who has worked with Simon for over 25 years.

Professor Simon's impact on the academic and athletic arena at Hamilton has been unparalleled. "Bob is such a special person inside and out! Since my arrival five years ago, he has been nothing but selfless and supportive to our basketball program," said women's basketball coach Michelle Collins, regarding working alongside Simon.

Simon led his team to NESCAC championship titles in 1990 and 1998, as well as to the only NCAA Division III Championships ever in Hamilton history in 1999. The Hamilton athletic community continues to pull for Simon. During the Spring, in preparation for treatment, players from Collins's team helped Simon get stronger by walking laps with him every day, sending inspirational texts and emails and helping out with the occasional meal. Players also bought Simon a bear from the Vermont Teddy Bear Company that was dressed in a basketball jersey with his name on the back.

*See **Community**, page 2*

PHOTO BY LAUREN GETMAN '19

Professor Simon pictured above with varsity women's basketball team.

Harvey impacts Hamiltonians

by Jonina Mignon '20
NEWS CONTRIBUTER

On August 25, 2017, Hurricane Harvey made landfall in southern Texas. Over the course of nearly a week after, the storm would wreak havoc from Houston to Louisiana, with residents as far as the Caribbean and Latin America receiving heavy winds and water.

A peak of nearly 52 inches of rainfall stalled itself in Houston, turning roads to rivers, flooding homes and destroying infrastructure, and claiming a death toll currently above the 60s.

Despite being physically removed from the catastrophe, Texan students at Hamilton can still feel its effects. Many had personal stories to tell of their communities back home, with Joel Harper '21, who is from Austin, stating, "I do have a lot of friends and family from Houston. My grandparents actually live there, and their house wasn't demolished by the storm, but they'll definitely have to repair it. Stormwater seeped through everything."

Sarah Hossain '18, from Dallas, had more to add about how Hurricane Harvey has disrupted daily life in Houston, where her aunt and cousins live: "Some of the main effects I've heard of are that the Houston airport has cancelled most of its' daily flights (my cousin couldn't fly out to college in time for the semester to begin) which impacts work and school and that the gas prices around the state are going up.

Houston is the hub of many major oil refineries, and since business has halted due to the hurricane, there has been a gas shortage. As a result of this, some people can't even get to work or school and are forced to rely on public transportation, which isn't all too common, especially where I am from."

In the light of this natural disaster, one thing that everyone can agree on is the atmosphere of unity and altruism, both in Texas and here at Hamilton. Chris Mireles '21, from San Antonio, remembers a friend "who's an EMT in Houston right now doing a search and rescue mission." Here at Hamilton, Harper describes "a community that's really surrounded the students from Texas", and Hossain agrees, especially noting "the great support shown this past week when members of the faculty including Dean Martinez, Jeff McArn, Amy James, and others made time to have lunch with students from Texas. It was great to come together with this relatively small group of people to talk through how each of us is personally affected, and to think about ways we can get the Hamilton community involved with fundraising for Hurricane Harvey."

All over the country and at Hamilton, volunteer efforts and the kindness of others are bringing people together and impacting positive change. For students looking to help those affected by Hurricane Harvey, a fundraiser is currently in the works, with funds going towards the Houston mayor's Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund.

Community rallies around Simon

*from **Community,** page 1*

Players returned the support Simon had shown for countless years as coach and advisor for the team. "Whenever a player needs anything, whether advice or to assist with schedule conflicts, he is there for them. I can't even begin to scratch the surface on how vital Bob has been to our program and the Hamilton community as a whole" said Collins.

Professor Russell Marcus described Simon as the "core of the department, an internationally respected scholar, productive and hard working, a smart, sharp and insightful thinker, who is able to see the outlines and structure of any argument in any area of philosophy with ease and wit, and one of the kindest people you'll ever meet. And he does it all with half an eye on his golf swing".

From coaching Little League together, teaching team philosophy courses and playing basketball and baseball together, Professor Rick Werner described Simon as " one of the kindest, most dedicated and sincere academics I know. His work ethic is as legendary as his love for sports."

Simon's work ethic is clearly exemplified in the numerous accolades he received for his academic work, such as the Marjorie and Robert W. McEwen Professorship of Philosophy, the Sidney Wertimer Professorship, the William R. Kenan Professorship and a Rockefeller Foundation Humanities Fellowship.

Throughout the philosophy department, Simon is well known for his kindness, intelligence and love of golf and science fiction movies.

Professor Marianne Janack recalled first joining the Philosophy department, "when I got the job here at Hamilton, I told a friend of mine, who had worked in the admission office in the 1980s. She said, 'Oh, you'll get to be in a department with Bob Simon! I think he's one of the most beloved people at Hamilton.' And that, I learned, is true."

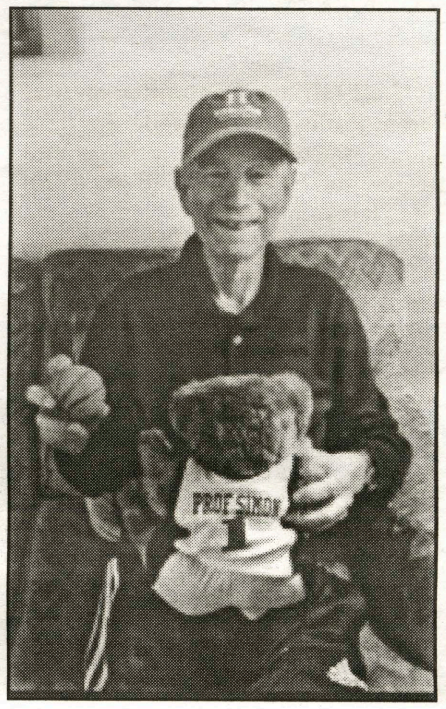


PHOTO BY LAUREN GETMAN '19

Simon with gifts from students.

DACA rescission prompts community and nationwide response

by Sarah Salimi '20
NEWS EDITOR

On September 5 2017, President Trump and Attorney General Jeff Sessions jointly announced the decision to rescind the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, to be enforced within six months. DACA is an Obama-era program, launched in 2012, that seeks to protect undocumented immigrants who entered the United States before the age of 16.

They are temporarily provided immunity from deportation under a protection called "deferred action," provided that they meet the program's requirements. This decision stands to impact the nearly 800,000 young people, or "dreamers," who are protected under DACA, in addition to those whose application for the program is currently pending.

During the election, Trump repeatedly promised his base that he would end DACA within his first month of office. Trump justified his decision on the concern that "millions of Americans" had been "victimized by this unfair system." He faulted DACA recipients for "den[ying] jobs to hundreds of thousands of Americans," depressing wages, and breaking the law.

Despite these claims that DACA recipients are siphoning resources from American citizens, the reality is that they are ineligible for most governmental social benefits, most notably including Section 8 Housing, Medicaid, Welfare, food stamps, and the Affordable Care Act.

Moreover, this subset of immigrants is economically productive, such that their removal from the workforce, as reported by CNBC, would result in the loss of $433 billion over the next ten years.

Just hours after the announcement, protests emerged in front of the White House and Justice Department; these were populated by individuals from both major parties, who were of the opinion that this decision was jeopardizing the future of young immigrants, and could also have adverse economic effects.

Trump, in response to this blowback, published a tweet encouraging Congress to "legalize DACA" through the form of new legislation; if this issue is not addressed in the next six months, Trump promised to "revisit this issue," without furnishing any further specifics as to what this involvement would entail.

Unless Congress codifies the principles of DACA into new legislation, those currently protected under it will lose their recipient status, and will be eligible for deportation.

In order to receive DACA benefits, immigrants were required to provide the government with a massive amount of personal information, which could now be used to deport them. In addition to being subject to immigration enforcement, affected individuals will be unable to renew their work permits.

Although loss of status will not impact their ability to apply to state colleges, students have no such security at private schools, which reserve the right to choose to deny them. As per Hamilton, President David Wippman assuaged students' fears when he announced that the school will not be changing its admissions policy.

Both on and off campus, the response to the proposed rescission of DACA has been vociferous. Protests have erupted in major cities across the country, such as Denver, D.C., and L.A., to name a few. University students in Colorado – which is home to 17,000 DACA recipients – walked out of classes in a show of solidarity with these young immigrants.

DACA supporters also collectively sat in front of the U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement in protest.

In Utica, a rally was held in the Oneida Square Roundabout. Presidents of the NY6 – a consortium of 6 liberal arts colleges within Upstate NY, comprising Colgate University, Union College, St. Lawrence University, Skidmore College, Hobart and William Smith Colleges, and our very own Hamilton College – issued a joint letter to U.S.

Senators Schumer and Gillibrand and U.S. Representative Tenney enjoining them to "support swift legislative action to codify the principles of DACA..." On Wednesday, September 6, 15 states and the District of Columbia sued the federal government with a Due Process and Equal Protection claim, in addition to a variety of Administrative Procedure Act claims.

On campus, the show of support for affected individuals and their families has been overwhelming. Over 1,100 students, faculty members, alumni, and other staff have signed a petition to make Hamilton a sanctuary campus – a protection which, while emotionally meaningful, provides no legal protections.

President Wippman put out a statement in which he reaffirmed the administration's commitment to all students, regardless of their immigration status.

He pledged that the College has and will not disclose information about its students immigration statuses, nor will it "assist with the enforcement of immigration laws against members of the campus community."

The Black and Latinx Student Union is sponsoring an event on Friday, September 8 in the Sadove Living Room to generate dialogue about the consequences of DACA's termination and to provide support to those faced with the prospect of losing their DACA recipient status.

At this time, students in need of legal and other resources can consult the Hamilton website.

Congressional elections picking up steam

by Emma Ritz '20
NEWS CONTRIBUTER

Many Hamilton students may have received reminders to vote in their inbox this past week, and with the 2018 Congressional elections looming, it is important to register.

While there may not be an opportunity to effect change on the executive level for three more years, the American people will soon have the opportunity to select whom they want representing them within the legislative branch.

Hamilton is located within the 22nd district of New York, which has voted Republican in the last three presidential elections. Donald Trump won the district with an impressive 55% margin, far more than either Mitt Romney or John McCain. During this election, Claudia Tenney, a hard right Republican, was elected to congress. She replaced Richard Hanna, a moderate Republican, who retired and did not seek reelection.

During the 2016 election Tenney defeated Democratic challenger Kim Myers in a highly contested and expensive election. Outside organizations contributed nearly $4 million to support Tenney and $2.4 million in support of the Myers campaign. While Tenney may have won this election by a significant margin, the future of the district is still on the table. With the 2018 election just about a year away, we at *The Spectator* wanted to provide an update on the race.

Claudia Tenney was educated at Colgate University and began her career as the only American to be employed at the time by the Consulate General of Yugoslavia. She then moved on to establish the Tenney Media Group, in Clinton, as well as a law practice.

After being defeated in a race for Oneida County Surrogate Court Judge, she went on to run for Congress in 2014 but lost. In 2016, she ran again and subsequently won the congressional election. Politically, she is far-right, and has worked to repeal the ACA, sponsored bills to limit abortion access, opposed gun control legislation and has opposed the development of wind and solar energy.

Tenney and her opponent, Anthony Brindisi, have already engaged in a fierce war of words on the campaign trail. Brindisi also has a background in law and is a three-term state assembly member. Having served on the Board of Education, he wishes to make education a main focus of his campaign, alongside jobs, the economy and healthcare.

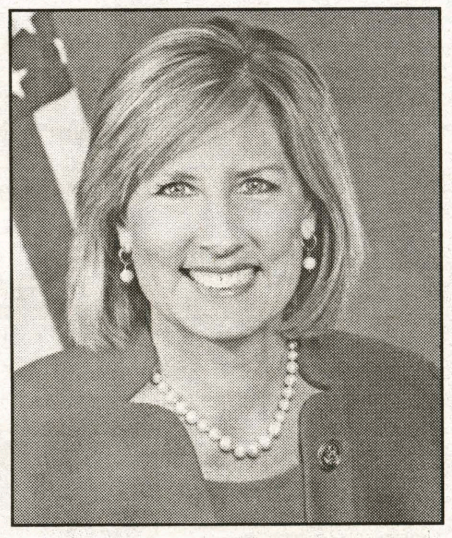
Shortly before Brindisi announced his campaign, Tenney went on the attack, stating, "He pretends to be a moderate when it benefits him, but on the issues that matter the most for Upstate New York, he has been a rubber stamp for the corruption and failed liberal policies of Governor Cuomo, Sheldon Silver, Ray Halbritter and New York City liberals."

Tenney received criticism for speaking about Brindisi's father's alleged connection to organized crime. She spoke about how Brindisi`s father represented members of crime organizations and contrasted this with her own fathers record.

She stated, "[My father] fought for law and order and Anthony's father represented some of the worst criminals in our community. You have to question ... some of the things that have happened in his family. The voters make that decision. I'm not saying Anthony is part of any of that, but that's the family you come from." These comments received negative backlash throughout the media.

Jibes aside, this election will probably be decided based on who can convince the people of the 22nd district that they will stimulate the economy and bring jobs to the region. Trump provoked outrage this summer by urging jobless upstate New Yorkers to leave their homes and move to a different state, such as Wisconsin.

He told the *Wall Street Journal*, "When you have an area that just isn't working like upper New York state, where people are getting very badly hurt, and then you'll have another area 500 miles away where you can't get people, I'm going to explain, you can leave. It's OK. Don't worry about your house."



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Claudia Tenney, former Assembly woman of New Hartford, currently the incumbent of NY's 22nd district.

Since everyone without a job in New York cannot just pick up and leave, it is up to the candidates to convince the people here that they can revitalize the area. Regardless of one's political affiliations, *The Spectator* wishes to remind all Hamilton students that regardless of which district they were born in, they can register to vote in this district.

Every vote matters and it is each citizen's duty to exercise this right.

Campus Safety Incident Report

In an effort to increase Campus Safety's transparency and draw attention to students' dangerous and destructive behaviors, *The Spectator* will publish a selection of the previous weekend's incidents each Thursday. The entire report is available in the online edition of *The Spectator.* Both Campus Safety and *The Spectator* will use their discretion regarding what is published.

Monday, August 28

11:34 P.M. Medical Emergency – North Road
11:58 P.M. Medical Emergency – McEwen Dining Hall

Tuesday, August 29

12:36 A.M. Noise Complaint – Bundy East Hall
12:57 A.M. Noise Complaint – Bundy East Hall

Wednesday, August 30

1:15 PM Check the Welfare – College Hill Road
8:34 P.M. Animal Complaint – McIntosh Hall

Thursday, August 31

8:40 A.M. Check the Welfare – Residence Hall
8:55 A.M. Fire Alarm – Griffin Road Apartments
10:47 A.M Trouble Alarm – Beinecke Village
8:50 P.M. Trouble Alarm – Dunham Hall
11:49 P.M. Medical Emergency – Residence Hall

Friday, September 01

12:51 A.M. Medical Emergency – Residence Hall
2:42 A.M. Area Check – Tennis Courts/Track
1:52 P.M. Harassment – Crosswalk
2:19 P.M. Medical Emergency – Residence Hall
6:57 P.M. Smoke Detector – Milbank Hall
8:09 P.M Smoke Detector – Babbitt Hall
11:18 P.M. Medical Emergency (Unfounded) – Dunham Quad
11:34 P.M. Medical Emergency – Residence Hall

Saturday, September 02

12:22 A.M. Area Check – Sadove Student Center
1:10 A.M. Medical Emergency – Jitney/Sadove Student Center
1:27 A.M. Area Check – Woollcott House
2:06 P.M. Noise Complaint – Steuben Field
2:51 P.M. Eells House – Marijuana/Alcohol Complaint
4:25 P.M. Area Check – Griffin Road
5:05 P.M. Area Check – North Lot
6:49 P.M. Medical Emergency – Martin's Way
7:10 P.M. Area Check – Dunham Hall
7:37 P.M. Fire Alarm – Root Residence Hall
7:43 P.M. Smoke Detector – Babbitt Hall
11:46 P.M. Noise Complaint – Babbitt Hall

Sunday, May 07

1:10 A.M. Area Check – South Campus

Finding oneself amongst the chaos

College can be overwhelming. Students find themselves faced with a demanding workload on top of unfamiliar social stressors – a recipe that often leads to long days and sleepless nights. It is therefore crucial to acknowledge the mannerisms of a campus life that can potentially serve to ease the anxiety brought on by the outset of a new semester.

Living on a college campus gives most students their first opportunity to be independent and autonomous. Without set bedtimes and mealtimes or the constant lingering presence of a parent, students are free to tailor their daily schedules in a way that best satisfies their individual preferences. Figuring out these preferences is the first step to getting into a groove that makes the daily grind more palatable. Are you a third floor library hermit, or do you need the company of friends to keep you focused? Do you work best listening to the buzz of conversation at Opus or the ambient trickle of the KJ water feature? These seemingly simple choices can shape students days in little ways that create an eventual sense of calm and control over their routines.

Perhaps the most comforting aspect of college is being surrounded by students in the same mindset who face similar stressors. Students know all too well the wave of relief that comes when their classmate also has not started that essay due in two days, and we can find solace in the constant presence of company in the library's 24-hour room. The campus community is more than a collection of students in the same location; it is a assemblage of students in the same chapter of their lives. In times of seemingly unbearable responsibility, we can find peace in this ever-present network of support.

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The Spectator's Letter to the Editor section is designed to be a forum for the entire Hamilton community to discuss and debate campus, local, national and global issues. Pieces published in the section express the opinion of the individual writers and are not necessarily the opinions of *The Spectator*, its editors or the Media Board.

Letters to the Editor are welcome from all students, alumni/ae, faculty, friends of the college and Hamilton community members.

The Spectator has the following policies for submission:

1. Submissions are due by 10:00 p.m. on the Monday before publication. The editors reserve the right to refuse any late submissions.
2. Letters should be no longer than 500 words. The editors reserve the right to cut off letters at 500 words.
3. Letters submitted anonymously will not be printed.
4. *The Spectator* reserves the right not to publish any letter it deems inappropriate for publication.
5. If a piece is determined to be libelous, an unwarranted invasion of privacy, or an unnecessary and/or unwarranted ad hominem or personal attack, it will not be published.

The Spectator is a publication of the Hamilton College Media Board. A volunteer staff of students handles all aspects of the weekly publication. The purpose of the newspaper is to provide the Hamilton Community with an honest, fair, timely and high-quality publication.

About Us

The Hamilton College Spectator, *publication number USPS 612-840, is published weekly by the Hamilton College Student Media Board while classes are in session. For more information e-mail spec@hamilton.edu. Our offices are located on the second floor of the Sadove Student Center. The deadline for advertisements is Monday the week of publication. For further information, please e-mail specads@hamilton.edu.*

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Celebrating 169 years, we were first published as The Radiator *in 1848.*

Stop sinking into the swamp: re-assessing Trump-related outrage

by Will Kaback '20
Opinion Editor

It has been almost a year since the 2016 election. At this time last year, I am sure many of us, myself included, were looking forward to the end of the constant stream of scandals, name-calling and unbridled vitriol that November 8 would no doubt provide us. Surely, this could not go on for much longer, we assured ourselves. Surely, we would look back at this moment as an unfortunate, but short-lived, period of history, a rare quirk in America's otherwise sterling electoral system. Ten months later, candidate Trump has become President Trump, and although the Commander-in-Chief's supporters would assure you that the man has, in fact, become "presidential," our everyday reality suggests otherwise.

So low is the bar for our president that a speech delivered without straying from the teleprompter's safe, scripted gaze merits begrudging approval from MSNBC panelists and all-out celebration within the GOP. The president struggles to read daily briefings more than a couple pages (if he reads them at all) and routinely misspells common words in his tweets (most recently, "hereos".) His administration has mirrored his campaign— bombastic, self-serving, and constantly in crisis.

With each new revelation— the firing of key staff members, plans for a transgender military ban, promises of "fire and fury" in relation to North Korea— it seems as if the breaking point has finally arrived, that members of Congress and his own party will finally take action to stem the damage he has caused. It is a familiar feeling. Familiar because, during the campaign, it felt the same way. Mocking a disabled reporter? It's over, we were told. The *Access Hollywood* Tapes? The end is nigh! Three consecutive debate losses? There's no way Hillary loses. So constant was (and are) the scandals, insults and gaffes that one can take his or her pick of what to be offended or horrified by. The side effect of all this, of course, is an inability to focus on one issue for more than a few days, but, the thinking goes, it is irrelevant. How could one man maintain his support under the weight of so many transgressions?

The answer is that Trump has become an Atlas of sorts, somehow able to carry this weight, even when it is not always pretty. Despite reports of failing stamina, frustration and a declining mental state, Trump has, somehow, persisted.

Now I know what you might be thinking. How is that sentence any different from those of the other pundits and spokespeople who compliment Trump for achieving the bare minimum? You might be right to be skeptical of the notion that Trump is above criticism, but you are not asking the right question. Instead of trotting out the same tropes we have come to know and love—the calls for impeachment, the declarations of incredulity and hair-tugging at act after unprecedented act—why has no one wondered, at what point do we realize what we are doing is not working?

Maybe it is not that Trump is scandal-proof, but instead that the approach of those who seek to oppose him has become ineffective. I am talking about the viral videos of late-night hosts taking down the newest Trump tweet. Or, in the responses to said tweets, the many accounts with some variation of "Resist" or "Impeach" in their username who scream their discontent into the Twittervoid, accomplishing nothing beyond earning declarations of agreement from like-minded individuals.

I understand that with mounting tension at both the national and international level, people are seeking some outlet, any outlet, to express themselves. To say the current world climate is normal is a lie, a disingenuous one at that. But what if, and this may be a radical notion, the endless, mounting, increasingly all-inclusive bash-Trump movement is actually...making him stronger?

My thought process is simple. Trump is a candidate and President unlike any we have seen in a long time, probably ever. The response to him from media and national institutions has also been different. That is, party members openly questioning and attacking their president's actions and agenda, as well as a media landscape that, in many ways, has been divided into either pro-Trump or anti-Trump camps. And thus, we have created a cycle. Trump does something outrageous, the media unleashes the full capacity of its fury, tensions rise, repeat. This is not to say the response to Trump's actions is unwarranted or incorrect. And yet, even after every expert has been dragged out of the woodwork to explain how the president is wrong, after every joke that can be made has been made and after every "final straw," he still won! And— he's still president!

Sadly, it is too much to expect the GOP to exercise their ability to remedy this situation (it's becoming increasingly apparent that they wouldn't even know how to do it if they tried), and a man with the ego of Trump is unlikely to resign. That leaves us with the bleak prospect of three more years of this administration, at the very least. It is that "very least" that we should be focusing on, rather that commiserating and poking fun at a situation we ultimately will not have control over until November 8, 2020.

When your candidate, party or ideology loses an election, you are supposed to analyze what went wrong and figure out how to fix it for next time. Our (the opposition) treatment of Trump, whether on social media, in print or on the television, has not changed since his candidacy— in fact, we have doubled down on this same approach. If the ultimate goal is ensuring that Trump and his supporters hold power for as little time as possible, we should be prepared to explore all possible ways to see this become a reality.

Instead of trotting out the same tropes we have come to know and love— the calls for impeachment, the declaration of incredulity and hair-tugging at act after unprecedented act— why has no one wondered, at what point do we realize what we are doing is not working?

Rather than raising our voices to counter the drivel coming out of the White House or searching for new adjectives to describe how bad the newest scandal is, what if we stopped, breathed and re-assessed? In the midst of these ten months of political turmoil, there are pressing questions that need addressing, questions that could help guide our next steps forward. How to best address Trump's base, which has remained largely intact, for one. Additionally, how are we going to support those who are actually affected, not just off put, by the Trump administration's policies? And who, or what, can serve as the unifying message that will rise above the temptation to drop to the bar the president has set?

As tempting and satisfying as it can be to simply stay the current course of defaulting to outrage at every new development, I suspect it could result in the truly ominous prospect of a second term. I hope to never have to experience another election like the one in 2016 again, but I worry that many of the factors that led to that result remain entrenched and unquestioned, however justified they might be. Instead of reverting to the same, let's do what Trump cannot—look inward, critique, assess, analyze and change.

Thumbs Up

Jesse McCartney.

My tween-age dreams are about to come true. I hope I pee myself on the dancefloor.

Cider Mill is Open.

I only eat one kind of appel [sic] and one kind of donüt [sic], and I can only handle such powerful flavors for 11 weeks out of the year, so you can imagine how excited I am that this red-sided haven is open again.

Thumbs Down

My horsy BB tee has still not arrived.

I ordered this shirt almost a month ago. Maybe its prolonged absence is the punishment I deserve for ordering a crop top featuring a drawing of a horse with textured bangs.

Safety Rails.

Did you know that when your bed is on the highest setting, which is when you would ostensibly need a safety rail most, the safety rail cannot be installed? Incredible!

Who Cares?

Breakaway.

Why go somewhere mildly okay off campus when you can sit in your common room until you get shut down at 11:45 PM by campo?

Cider Mill is Open.

Maybe this is an unpopular opinion, but this place is way overrated. Dunkin is open year-round and I don't have to surround myself with the smells of apples dying terrible deaths.

by Tara Cicic '18 and Rachel Alatalo '18

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this column are purely of a satirical nature, and are not representative of the views of *The Spectator* editorial board.

Time to get REAL: first-year progam failed to facilitate unique relationships

by Genevieve Shuster '20
Staff Writer

With the news that the REAL (Residential Engagement in Academic Life) program is no longer active, it is worth reflecting on the effectiveness of such an initiative. I participated in the REAL program as a First-Year primarily because college forums had successfully convinced me that my life would end if I was placed in Dunham. The community-building part seemed all well and good, but, in all seriousness, the overdramatized tales of Dunham being a cesspool had thoroughly scared me to the point that I was willing to do pretty much anything to avoid living there.

In previous years, rising first-years could request to participate in the REAL program on their roommate survey. REAL students lived together on the top two floors of South Residence Hall and took a class together. Additionally, the professor of whichever class you took was your advisor, thus creating, in theory, a close knit and small community within the Hamily. The stated purpose was that, "Students have a chance to connect with faculty and one another meaningfully during their first semester on campus." This mission statement, while incredibly wholesome, is pretty much the tagline of every Hamilton program—building community, making friends and student/faculty engagement. What it boils down to is that the REAL program was designed to give you a few friends and a relationship with one professor with one of the newest and most aesthetically pleasing dorms on campus as bait.

The effectiveness of the program was moderate. Although the REAL program was not detrimental to my first year experience, I do not think it had any more or less of an effect than any other freshman dorm would have had. I definitely made friends through living in close proximity in South, but most people make at least a few friends in their first year simply by living in the same building or on the same floor. I do not think the experience I had making friends in South as a part of the REAL program was much different than what I would have had if I lived in Keehn, North or even, quite honestly, Dunham.

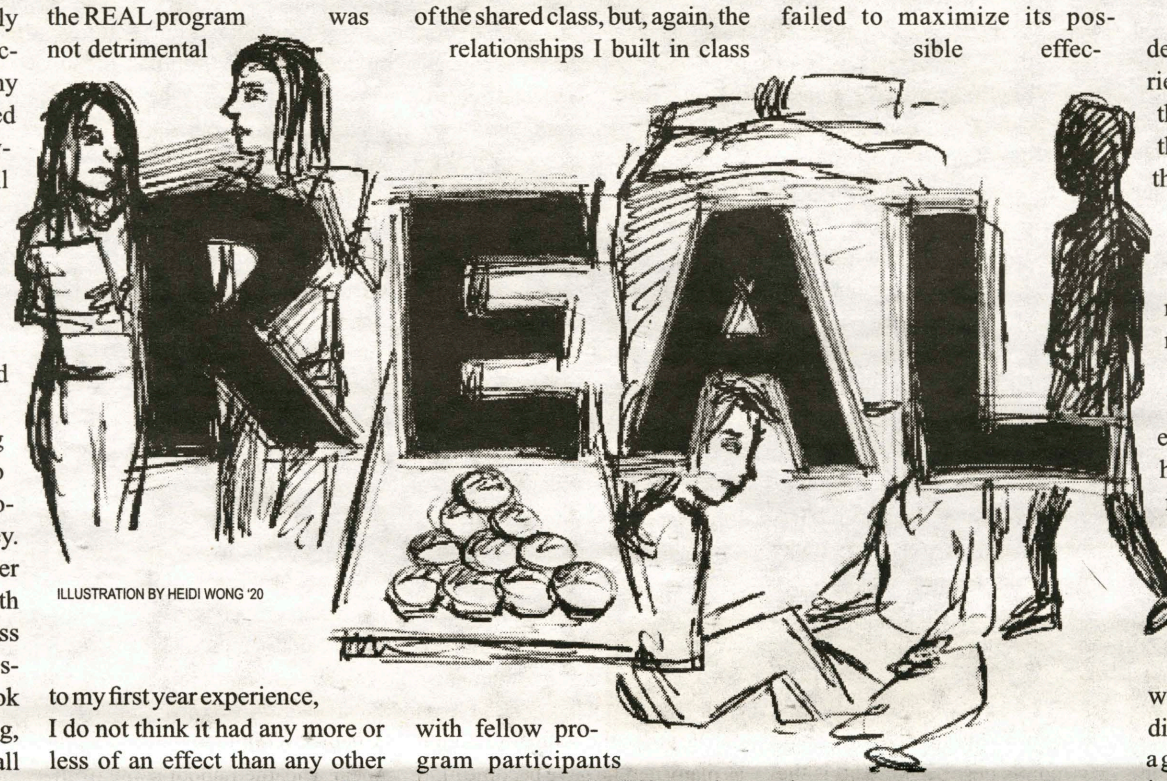


ILLUSTRATION BY HEIDI WONG '20

The ease of meeting and visiting a friend who lives across the hall or downstairs is nearly universal and certainly not exclusive to the REAL program. I suppose the initiative was designed to create a more intense bond between floormates because of the shared class, but, again, the relationships I built in class with fellow program participants were not materially different than those I made in classes outside of the program. The REAL program had no unique effect on my relationships.

I think perhaps the program could have been more effective had there been more organized activities in the dorm or even within classes. That did not seem to be a priority of the program at all. REAL program gatherings were limited to floor meetings organized by our R.A., which every dorm has. Most programs on campus that center around engagement of one type or another mandate a whole host of bonding activities, which the REAL program neglected to do.

The REAL program also failed to maximize its possible effectiveness because of the manner in which participants met and interacted with each other. Although I believe I at least recognized the majority of REAL program participants in my year, there was no mechanism through which we all met one another. The only time we were all together in one space was at an R.A. meeting at the beginning of the year. Something like a field day or brunch early in the program could have helped in creating an overall program bond, even if it did not involve the most exciting of activities. Even weekly meetings or check-ins might have improved the program's effectiveness in facilitating durable connections.

The REAL program did not detract from my first-year experience, but I cannot honestly say that it contributed materially either. I think I would have made the friends I made in my classes and from living in South without the blanket of the REAL program. Being exposed to as many people as possible freshman year is often a good thing; it allows you to find your niche. But the REAL program did not expose me to anything I would have otherwise missed. It was, in many ways, contentless because it did not consciously "do" much of anything to accomplish its stated goals.

None of this is to say that the goals of this program were useless. In fact, if executed differently, it could have served as a great facilitator for transitioning into college life.

If the REAL program, or something like it, is ever to be brought back, there would need to be increased exposure to more program participants through periodic organized activities. Otherwise, it would remain an essentially hollow program for what living in any first-year dorm and taking first-year courses already provides you.

Letter to the editor: what is "Common Ground" when the ground has shifted?

Dear *Spectator* Editorial Board,

Recently, the College announced a news speaker's series underpinned by the concept of "Common Ground," an event featuring a prominent Republican (Karl Rove) and prominent Democratic (David Axelrod). The Hamilton News site and later the *Spectator* prominently advertised the initiative.

President David Wippman stated that the "goal for Common Ground is for the speakers, one a Democrat, the other a Republican, to model the kind of respectful dialogue across political boundaries that should occur not just on college campuses, but in the broader society as well... With capable speakers on both sides of a given issue, each willing to acknowledge strengths in the position of the other, we aim to encourage students and other audience members to question their own assumptions and consider carefully the evidence and arguments supporting other viewpoints." *The Spectator* followed up last week, quoting Wippman as emphasizing that the Rove/Axelrod tete-a-tete would be a "conversation" rather than a debate.

I have serious disagreement with the general thrust and trajectory of the principle of "common ground" or "both sides" in the current US context. Common ground in the contemporary US political scene is manifestly a false equivalency. Nigerian novelist Chimamanda Adichie sums it up very well in referring to an incident in the 2016 campaign: "A day after the election, I heard a journalist on the radio speak of the vitriol between Obama and Trump. No, the vitriol was Trump's. Now is the time to burn false equivalencies forever. Pretending that both sides of an issue are equal when they are not is not 'balanced' journalism, it is a fairy tale – and, unlike most fairy tales, a disingenuous one." We had another potent example of false equivalency in Charlottesville, when President Trump blamed "many sides" for the violence in the streets.

We have witnessed a sitting US President, a pathological liar, misogynist and racist, both as candidate and President, violate every single facet of respect, decency and "respectful" norms. So what is the logic of "common ground" if one is faced, say, with a debate or conversation to decide on whether or not Trump is racist? An agreement on a more palatable racism than the noxious drivel that regularly emerge from Trump's tweets?

That this level of behavior in the Oval office should continue for so long is a blot on the country. For the College to imply that there is an observable common ground, a space of compromise, is a charade. If there is evidence of such from the Trump Administration, then I imagine we would have to employ the Hamilton observatory to assist in locating it. It's certainly not evident, especially to people of color, immigrants, DREAMers, Muslims, refugees, workers, and so many other categories of the insulted and oppressed.

The principle and intent behind the planned series of talks might be well-intentioned. Dispassionate academic discourse has its place. In times like these, however, what we really need is passionate, consistent and spirited attack on racism and other forms and acts of intolerance and bigotry emanating from the White House. Too much is at stake for an elusive search for a fanciful, polite, common ground.

Yours sincerely,

Nigel Westmaas
Associate Professor
Africana Studies

Why I put a Mezuzah on my dorm room door

by Robert Berk '20
Staff Writer

Growing up in New York City, I think I assumed most people were Jewish. I went to school on the Upper East Side of Manhattan and am pretty sure that I attended a Bar or Bat Mitzvah every weekend of seventh grade. My mother is Christian and my father is Jewish. When I was very young, we would go to the local church every Sunday. However, I considered that nap time. In middle school, I was confirmed, but my mother did not really leave me any say in that decision. From the beginning of high school on, I would only go to church for the holidays. As a family, we would celebrate all the Christian holidays with my mom's side and the Jewish with my father's side.

Last fall was the start of my life away from home. I distinctly remember being confused when I found out that I had class over Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. I have never really strictly observed these holidays, and definitely never fasted for Yom Kippur, but it felt weird to be in class. When I was back in my room, I FaceTimed my parents, and they were with my extended family. It was my first time talking with most of my relatives since I had moved in.

Before I knew it, the second semester was well underway, and it was spring time. My family and I had a really nice Passover tradition. We would always host the first night, inviting my dad's whole side, and then go to our family friends' for the second night. This time around I felt that FaceTiming home was not enough. I had made some new friends who were Jewish and they asked if I wanted to go to the Chabad Passover Seder. I did not really know what to expect, but I remember telling Nana, my Jewish grandmother, that I was excited to go.

I went into the night nervous that I was not "Jewish enough" and that I would not fit in. What I found was a very welcoming community. Yes, the majority were more religious than I was, but I never felt judged for not knowing how to read Hebrew or for not having all of the prayers memorized. I left with new familiar faces that I was happy to see around campus.

Over break, I had the incredible opportunity to travel to Israel. My mom's best friend, who is the mother of our closest family friends, the same ones that we celebrate the second night of Passover with, did not have a bat mitzvah as a teenager. She wanted to become a bat mitzvah as an adult, after much study, in Israel. My family spent a week in Israel. It truly was a life changing experience. I was in awe of the history as I walked around the Old City.

There are no words to describe the feeling of walking through Yad Vashem, Israel's official memorial to the victims of the Holocaust. The actual Bat Mitzvah ceremony took place on Masada and was breathtaking. Even with everything I experienced, however, I think the most memorable part of the trip was a simple cab ride.

My family was on our way to dinner across Jerusalem. We got in the taxi and the first thing I noticed was a copy of The Bible on the passenger seat. After we filed into the car and told the driver where we were going, he struck up a conversation. It started with the basic questions, "Where are you from? How long are you here? What have you seen?" But by the time we got to the restaurant we were having a debate about the future of religion, as many people have become more secular. What I find the most amazing about this particular experience is how rare it is. Without a doubt, I believe that if the same topics were discussed in a New York City taxi ride, I would only be talking about how annoying of a driver I had.

This summer I worked for an advertising and media company in Midtown. I would read *The New York Times* on my way into the office in the morning. I was shocked by how frequently Anti-Semitic remarks were covered in the news. While there is a worsening issue with racial and ethnic hatred in America right now, I have to admit I was naive to the complexity of it.

I have found the rise of a Neo-Nazi movement particularly disgusting. I cannot believe that there are Americans who, like my Jewish grandfather, fought against the Nazis in the Second World War just to see fellow Americans wear a Swastika. I will admit that this strikes a particular chord with me due to my family's history. My grandmother lost both her father and brother to the war.

When I returned to campus this fall I made sure to attend the first Shabbat, or Friday dinner, at Chabad. While enjoying a delicious meal, I learned about some of the programming that is being offered this fall. I enrolled in Sinai Scholars, an educational experience that I am excited will help me learn more about the Jewish texts, discover more about my heritage, and help me connect with fellow members of the Jewish community on campus. Rabbi Didy Waks, the Director of the Chabad of Clinton, offered to hang a Mezuzah on my dorm room door. The Chabad website defines a Mezuzah as:

"Mezuzah: (Lit. "doorpost"): A small parchment scroll upon which the Hebrew words of the Shema are handwritten by a scribe. Mezuzah scrolls are rolled up and affixed to the doorposts of Jewish homes, designating the home as Jewish and reminding those who live there of their connection to G-d and their heritage."

Right away I knew I wanted one. No friends have commented on it, and frankly, I do not care if they do or do not. Over the last year I have loved learning more about Judaism and my Jewish heritage. I would not say I am a practicing Jew, I do not keep kosher or pray on a regular basis, but I would say I am Jewish. I do not know how my Jewish identity will continue to change and grow, but I do know it has made me a more active community member.

Sour cream VS Greek yogurt

by Molly Geisinger '19
Features Co-Editor

For those of us who like to start the day off right, a bowl of yogurt is a good choice. There's nothing like preparing a light snack of Greek yogurt with honey drizzled on top and a sprinkling of granola... Until you realize it's actually sour cream. We hear your concerns. This is a comprehensive guide that should help you to never make this mistake again.

First of all, plain yogurt is really just fermented milk, and Greek yogurt has been strained to remove the whey. Sour cream, as the name predicts, is cream that has been fermented. Obviously yogurt and sour cream have been fermented with different bacteria, but we'll save you the trouble of trying to pronounce their names.

Greek yogurt is not as shiny as sour cream. It is a little dull looking. If sitting for a long period of time, it will separate into a solid and a liquid, with the latter pooling on top. Greek yogurt can even be substituted for cream cheese, if that gives you an idea of its consistency. Sour cream, on the other hand, is shinier and more uniform in texture.

If you're really unsure, do the spoon test. Greek yogurt won't slide off of the spoon as easily as sour cream may. Sour cream will form a nice dollop, the way you might find it on the surface of a creamy soup.

Of course, if you really really can't tell, and you're brave, take a bite. While they both can taste pretty tart, sour cream will be much richer. Unlike Greek yogurt, which ranges from 100-300 calories per cup, sour cream tends to be more caloric because of its higher fat content.

If this only made you more confused, just ask someone from Bon Appetit.

Ask Alex

Dear Alex, does everyone here wear Bean Boots?

You'll find that everyone has their two cents to throw in about this. While most people will sport the (in-) famous Bean Boot, there's plenty of Timberlands and Sorels tromping around too.

When is it socially acceptable to start wearing flannels?

When the leaves start changing color, or around the time of the Farm Party. Whichever comes first.

How do I have sex if I live in a double?

Ya don't (unless you're into threesomes). Just kidding. Have a conversation with your roommate. Do not take advantage of your roommate. Remember, they own 50 percent of the room, so try not to let it happen too often.

How do I find out about parties?

It's usually word of mouth. Make some friends with upperclassmen, check Facebook invites. Or, if worst comes to worst, wander around the Dark Side and listen for music.

What do I get at the Diner?

During the weekdays you can get breakfast food or lunch food at the appropriate hours. Look out for Mac 'n Cheese Wednesday and Curly Fry Friday. Diner B, which opens at 12:30 a.m. and closes 4 a.m. gets you breakfast food at inappropriate hours. I would reccomend the Bacon Mess.

Where do I find the easy classes?

Hamilton College is a first-rate institution. There are no easy classes. But if you really want to know, ask someone on a contact sport team.

Which one is better, McEwen or Commons?

Neither. Just kidding. Commons is good for typical college food and athlete watching. McEwen is good for adding some spice to life and for their a-la-carte smoothies.

What's with the gaping hole in front of Sadove?

That is the remains of the fhouse (i.e. the farmhouse), and the soon to be site of a "new-and-improved" health center. RIP to a true legend.

Fall Fashion Preview

by Molly Geisinger '19
Features Co-Editor

Gone are the days of high 70s and tanning on Minor Field. Bean Boots and vests are back in, and the *Spectator* is here to help you decide what to wear for these confusing transitional months until real fall arrives.

Bean Boots

Originally designed in 1912 for wet feet, the often-seen Bean Boot will keep your toes warm in the nippy weather. Bean Boots will keep your feet dry for rainy season and warm so you can be like Fergie and own boots with the fur. These hardy duck shoes are still made in Maine and are versatile for any type of weather. They might be 100 years old, but they sure don't look it.

Vests

This go-to jacket is perfect for being just as indecisive as you are. It doesn't quite keep you warm, but it also doesn't let you freeze. To bring it home, wear it over a fall-colored flannel and throw on some generic leggings. Maybe you want to show off your legs? Wear it with a dress! Vests with down filling or lining are especially comfortable. While your extremeties may be freezing, at least you know your torso will stay nice and toasty.

Jean jackets

A jean jacket is a great option for people who cannot decide if they are really light side or very dark side. Roll up the sleeves and wear them with a dress or throw them on top of a short sleeve top. If you're a real nineties chick, do jean on jean.

Patagonias

The fuzzy Patagonia quarter zip is a great alternative for the swug look. This is by far the least time-intensive look. Throw it on top of leggings and no one would know that you just woke up five minutes ago.

COURTESY OF GREATS BRAND

Greats are durable enough for walks, bike rides and sprinting to and from class.

Greats

This five-year-old unisex shoe brand created by Brooklyn-based artists Ryan and Jon often sells out its styles within 90 days. So what? These versatile sneakers are sold directly to the customer without markups so they're stylish *and* affordable. For an even more affordable price, email spec@hamilton.edu.

Scarves

This fall essential keeps your neck warm, and it can hide your hickies! For guys, you'll look super suave, and for girls, you'll look very put together. Scarves are perfect for light jackets, short sleeves, long sleeves, dresses and oversized sweaters. They are a stylish accessory that goes with everything.

Snuggies

Just because.

Best Brunch: Carmella's Cafe

by Maura Colley'19
Features Co-Editor

You see it on weekend mornings, the slow-moving and bleary-eyed groups of students making their way to Commons. After making the most of their weekends, and successfully making it out of bed, everyone is ready for eggs, bagels, muffins and bacon. On Saturday and Sunday mornings, though, the Commons brunch rush can be disappointing, to say the least.

If you want eggs, you can choose between the astronaut-style powdered eggs variety or wait in the painfully long line for made-to-order eggs from the grill. Either way, you're standing there in your pajamas in a long line full of equally hangry, hungover students.

Your other options include Belgian waffles – not a bad choice, but still involves quite the wait, and some serious precision. There is oatmeal, yogurt and maybe some muffins and cereal.

If we're being honest here, we all know that if you are looking for really good food on the weekends, you are only going to find it off campus. That's right, down the hill and into one of the many New Hartford, Clinton or Utica restaurants.

But where do you go? What restaurants are there, and are they good? Once I get there, what should I order?

Not to worry, we at the *Spec* only want the best for you and your hangry weekend self, so we're going to these restaurants for you. We'll let you know where to go and why, along with some solid brunch meal choices for vegetarians and bacon-lovers alike.

Every week we'll be hitting a different spot. This week we visited Carmella's Cafe, located at 8530 Seneca Turnpike in New Hartford. On Sundays they serve a killer breakfast menu and are open as early as 9a.m.. Early risers, this one's for you.

When we got to Carmella's, the first thing we noticed was how friendly all of the wait staff were and how much room there was in the restaurant. We got a seat in a booth and were ready to order as much as we could eat.

I'd have to say, though, the absolute BIGGEST perk of this restaurant was completely unexpected – instead of serving bread for the table, as some restaurants do, the fine people at Carmella's give you fried dough. If you've never had it before, there's your reason to try Carmella's right there. We couldn't have been happier – hangry no more.

But we've got you covered on what to actually order as well. Our top picks were: The Mexican Omelet (a pepper and onion omelet that comes with salsa and sour cream, and of course, some truly worth it home fries), their Eggs Benedict (hollandaise on point), and their Blueberry Pancakes. All of which were reasonably priced, with each meal coming to around $7 or $8 dollars by the end. We'd like to throw an extra shout out to the chef for the pancakes especially, because even though Commons' pancakes aren't half bad, these were absolutely delicious.

All in all, Carmella's was a great brunch experience. Not only was there enough seating (a.k.a. no lines or waits – can you imagine??), but the wait staff was friendly, the menu was easy to understand, the food came out on time, everything tasted great AND we got free fried dough. While there are certainly more upscale restaurants around (Ocean Blue, we're coming for you), and perhaps some that are a few miles closer to campus, Carmella's provided a lesser-known brunch option where we didn't feel rushed and didn't have to worry that what we ordered would be anything less that delicious.

Though there were no outstanding dishes or "out of the box" brunch options, the food was both delicious and well-portioned, and the overall experience was positive. We'd give Carmella's Café a solid 7/10 for a great Sunday morning brunch.

Stay Tuned for Next Week's Brunch!

Hamilton history: all about Burke

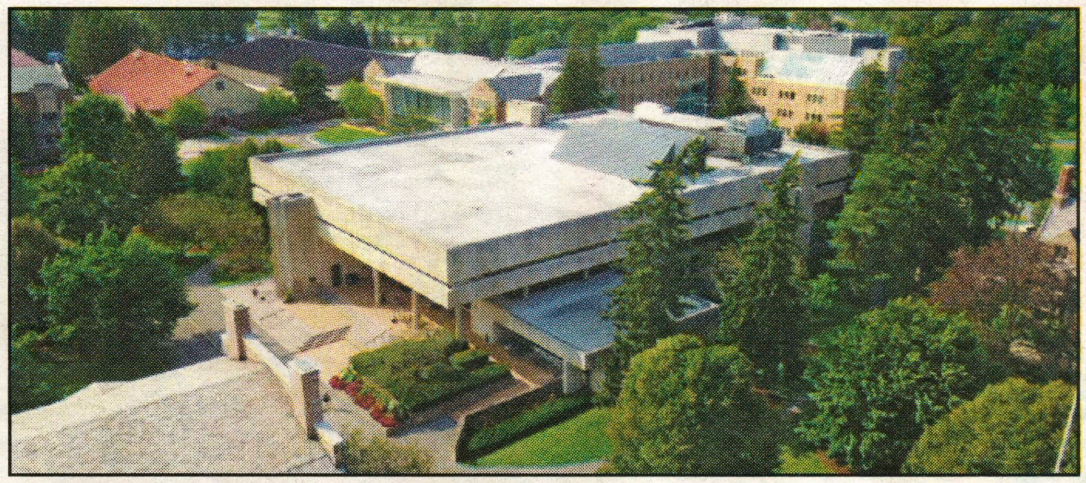
by William Andriola '21
FEATURES CONTRIBUTOR

The Burke Library today stands as a hub of campus academic activity, and a place where students can get work done away from the often chaotic atmosphere of a residence hall. Yet Burke has not always been the campus library destination. As evidenced by its brutalist architecture, it is a relatively recent addition to the College. Instead, over the past 205 years of Hamilton's existence, the library has changed buildings four times.

When Hamilton-Oneida Academy was rechartered as Hamilton College in 1812, there was no formal library on campus. In fact, only about 233 books were directly available to students and faculty. Instead, most students relied on the book collections of the various societies that existed on campus, including the Philopeuthian and Phoenix Society. Eventually, these societies donated their books to the College itself, sparking the creation of the campus's first library space: the top floor of the chapel. Here, beginning in 1861, the College stored its collection of about 10,000 books. This library, though, had shortcomings namely of its availability; it was only open two hours a week!

Ultimately, after much student protest, the College agreed to increase the hours of the library to four hours a day. Eventually, Hamilton saw fit to construct a standalone library, the Perry Hiram Smith Library. This building, completed in 1872, housed the College's collection of books for more than 50 years. After a period of serving as Minor Theater, which housed the Theater Department, the building has been converted into a residence hall, Morris Hall, in 2015. The next step in the history of Hamilton's library was the building of the Ellen Curtiss James Library, completed in 1914. This building, since renamed Christian Johnson, continues to exist today as an academic edifice.

With the influx of students following the founding of Kirkland College in 1968, and an accompanying increase in the size of Hamilton's book collection, the College soon announced plans to build a new, more modern library: the Burke Library. The new building would be a massive



BY JERRY TANG '21

An aerial shot depicts Burke Library in all of its Brutalist glory. After four relocations, Burke finally found its home on the north side of campus.

structure on campus, replacing the academic building known as the Truax Hall of Philosophy. Burke Library was designed in a similar manner to the buildings at Kirkland: brutalist, with large pane glass windows and a liberal use of concrete. This style, according to Hamilton College Archivist Katherine Collett, was hugely popular for colleges to feature at the time, as it was evidence of a college's financial stability and of the funding necessary to embark on such a large project. The library, at a cost of more than $5.5 million, and with more than 80,000 square feet of floor space, was completed in 1972. Burke has since seen a number of renovations over the past 50 years, including the addition of new computer equipment and the replacement of a "70s style" bright orange rug with one that is a tad more muted and modern.

Today the Burke Library is home to over 625,000 volumes and provides such campus resources as the Media Library, Jazz Archive and Music Library. The library is also home to a number of lesser known resources, including the Rare Book Room, which stores all of the books from the College's societies, among other rare books and the College Archives. The Archives serve as a repository for all campus material considered "historically valuable," including photographs, editions of student publications and alumni records. At the library's core is LITS, a combined department featuring an IT Department component and the library staff itself. The library also provides student access to many new technologies, including virtual reality and 3D printing.

HUMANS OF (CENTRAL) NY

by Alina van den Berg '21 and Gabriele Colchete '21
FEATURES CONTRIBUTORS

On Thursday, Aug 17, Clinton's Village Green was filled with art, food, homemade knick-knacks and, most importantly, townspeople. From the young girl playing the clarinet in the gazebo to the tattooed mom taking photos of her children by the tents, the Farmer's Market was bustling with activity.

One man in particular, who appeared to be in his 50s, sat with his dog by a fountain. A calm presence amidst the clamor, he appeared to exist in his own separate world. Mike, a self-proclaimed recluse, was not originally from Clinton, but moved here from New Hartford 20 years ago in search of anonymity.

"It's nice here. If you don't want to interact, you don't have to. And if you do want to, there's all types of stuff, you know, they have this little cultural scene," he said. From its New England-esque village square, to its low crime rate and trusting community, it seems that Clinton has developed a reputation for friendliness and amiability.

Throughout the conversation, Milo, Mike's large one-year-old rescue dog, jostled around our feet. According to his owner, he weighed only 11 pounds and was ridden with parvovirus when Mike adopted him, although Milo showed no signs of his tough past as he nuzzled up against our hands. Mike said, "I go to Hamilton College every day to walk to the woods with my dog [...] We go up on the woods on the Kirkland side. See, I go back long enough to remember when Kirkland was a separate college. "

Mike went to college in a similar town, but, in his case, the school spilled out right into the village and did not have the same physical divide as Hamilton has from Clinton. He had not

PHOTO COURTESY OF ALINA VAN DEN BERG '21

Where Mike sits on the fountain every Thursday.

seen much interaction between Hamilton and the town, but, as an intentional outsider, he admitted that he would not have been aware of it if there was.

In a village where his neighbors do not feel the need to lock their doors and where Hamilton's tranquil trails are readily available, Mike feels at home. As he puts it, "I don't know anybody, and I like that."

Shakespeare in the Amphitheatre

by Zac Ball '20
A&E Contributor

On Saturday and Sunday evening, Bare Naked Theatre put on a production of William Shakespeare's *All's Well That Ends Well* as their annual Shakespeare in the Amphitheatre performance. Many people came out for the tradition, and the large audience extended back into the lawn, facing the pond in front of the Kennedy Arts Center. The space was perfect for the performance on Saturday as the performers comedically broke the fourth wall and interacted with audience members,at times chastising them and at times offering them up for marriage to performers.

The set consisted of two wooden partition walls that shielded the performers and benches that were moved on and off of the grass stage. The performance was very minimalistic and casual; for example, instead of quieting the audience, the play simply began with a song. The eleven student performers, under the direction of Frankie Outlaw '18 and Caitlin McQuade '18, rehearsed on campus from mid-August until the performance dates.

PHOTO BY ZAC BALL '20

Snapshot from the performance in the front of the Kennedy Center.

The play had many different plots and characters that intertwined with one another throughout the two-hour-long performance. The play is filled with tragedy that was delivered very humorously. Helen (Caitlin McQuade '18), a poorly-situated woman who works for a Countess (Taylor Wallace '19), falls in love with the Countess' son, Bertram (Jack Martin '19), and is desperate for his affection. She uses her wit to make herself useful to the sick king (Jojo Rineheart-Jones'20). Rinehart-Jones made the King's ailment come to life in a light-hearted and funny way. Using her deceased father's medical receipts, Helen is able to bargain with the king.

Helen makes the deal that if she can cure the king of his ailment, she can choose a husband to marry regardless of class. She is successful in her end of the deal, and the king grants her wish to marry the Countess' unwilling son, Bertram. McQuade's performance was witty and captivating; she impressively held the stage whenever she was on it and fully committed to the ailment of the character. As the play progresses, the Countess' apathy towards Helen is evident, and Bertram's even more so. Wallace was very composed on stage, holding her hands tightly in front of her, and used her acting to assert her character's superiority, while Martin worked well to project throughout the outdoor space and set aside his character's pompous complex. He runs away, saying he will only return if Helen is pregnant with his child (which is impossible because the two never consummated their marriage).

Helen then develops a very convoluted plan to make Bertram impregnate her, and comedy and tragedy ensue. Thankfully, throughout this thick plot, the performances by these actors was helpful enough to make it more clear. During these scenes, subplots with a court naive (Corinne Russell '20) and a man name Parolles (Noelani Stevenson '19) provided a lot of humorous interaction with the audience. In the end, everyone supposedly ends up happy. Helen coerces Bertram into being a present husband, the Countess successfully marries off her unhappy son, and even other people wind up together. Hence, "all's well that ends well," but really the play did not end well for many of the characters. And all the actors certainly showed the tragedy and irony in the seemingly well-ended play.

Women to watch out for: Gal Gadot

by Grace Passanante '20
A&E Contributor

This week's woman to watch out for is up-and-coming movie star Gal Gadot. Gadot is most recently known for her role as a fierce female warrior named Diana who discovers that her destiny is to end World War I in the 2017 action movie *Wonder Woman*, directed by Patty Jenkins. Gadot fights off armies of men, dodges bullets and defends herself from swords while clad in the traditional Wonder Woman armor.

Before her role in this well-received film (which received 92% on Rotten Tomatoes), Gadot appeared in *Fast & Furious* (2009), and then *Fast Five* (2011) and *Fast and Furious 6* (2013), where she played the love interest of Han Seoul-Oh (Sung Kang). Gadot also appeared in *Date Night* (2010) and *Knight and Day* (2010).

Gadot was born in Petah Tikva, Israel and raised in Rosh HaAyin, a neighboring city. Gal means "wave" in Hebrew and Gadot means "riverbanks." Gadot was born to Michael Gadot, an engineer, and Irit Gadot, a teacher, and has a younger sister named Dana. Before her acting career began, Gadot played volleyball, basketball and tennis and claimed that she excelled in basketball due to her 5'10" frame. She then began modeling in the early 2000s and won the Miss Israel title in 2004 at the age of 18. She also competed in the Miss Universe pageant in 2004 in Ecuador. Before going to college, Gadot joined the Israeli Defense Forces where she served as a combat trainer. While working for the Defense Forces, Gadot says that she learned a lot about selflessness, discipline and respect.

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Gal Gadot: star of the movie *Wonder Woman*.

Her military training appealed to the director of *Fast and Furious*, Justin Lin, who cast Gadot partly because he wanted her to use her knowledge of weapons while she played her role. Her experience as a combat trainer also came in handy when she completed her own stunts in the Fast and Furious films and in the action scenes in *Wonder Woman*. After her time in the Defense Forces, Gadot began studying law and political science at the IDC-Herzliya College, where she was discovered by casting directors, thus launching her acting career.

Gadot married Yaron Versano, an Israeli real estate developer in 2008 when she was 23. In 2012, Gadot was ranked number 5 on a list of "the 50 most talented, intelligent, funny, and gorgeous Jewish women in the world." Her oldest daughter Alma was also born in 2012.

Gadot's second child, Maya, was born in March 2017. Evidently, Gadot filmed *Wonder Woman* while pregnant, and also reshot action scenes whilst five months pregnant. Gadot kept her pregnancy a secret, however, in order to avoid special treatment. She claims that came to the film set with sunglasses and anti-nausea drinks, causing everyone to think that she had "gone Hollywood." For the action scene reshoots, Gadot wore a bright green fabric over her Wonder Woman armor that could be digitally altered to cover her baby bump.

When she is not on screen, Gadot can be seen in places like the United Nations, standing up for women's rights. In 2016, alongside Lynda Carter, another actress in *Wonder Woman*, and other well-known, powerful women, Gadot appeared at the United Nations for the 75th anniversary of Wonder Woman to mark the comic book character's recognition by the UN as its "Honorary Ambassador for the Empowerment of Women and Girls." This recognition was meant to encourage gender equality and empower all women and girls by 2030. However, it was shut down after UN staff members claimed that the comic book character is not culturally inclusive and objectifies women.

Gadot's role as *Wonder Woman* also continues to live beyond the movie screen. At home with her two daughters, Gadot is a motor-cycle fanatic and can be seen riding her black 2006 Ducati Monster-SR2. Keep an eye out for Gadot as she continues to land more lead roles!

Art in nature: Marisabel Rey '19 on her upcoming exhibit

by Natasha Lane '21
A&E Contributor

PHOTO BY NATASHA LANE' 21

Rey displays one of her ceramic pieces at the Wellin.

"If you could use three words to describe Approaching the Unsystematic, what would they be?" Junior and Art major Marisabel Rey '19 furrows her brow, contemplating the question. She then smiles, and responds with "Unpredictable, time consuming and fascinating." Approaching the Unsystematic is an art exhibit currently on display in the Kennedy Arts Center that combines form, color and texture through the use of ceramics and inspiration of nature.

Rey, a recipient of the 2017 Emerson Grant, used her resources to explore a new artistic concept: color. "Personally, I'm really bad with colors," she admits, adding, "so I try to look for references outside of my head," which is why she looks to nature for inspiration. When she's out hiking or just walking around, Rey tries to see how colors interact with each other in natural settings, stepping outside of her comfort zone in order to better understand the effect color can have on an art piece. The product: Approaching the Unsystematic.

The junior took the entirety of her three-month summer break to perfect the ceramic pieces currently on display. She excitedly recounts the almost three-week period of time it took to make each piece, describing the process of shaping the clay, letting it dry for two weeks, firing it, glazing it, and then firing it again until the desired result was accomplished. The exhibit is made even more fascinating knowing that three weeks of time and effort that have been put into each work. Rey's favorite piece is actually the first one she created, simply because of the amount of times she re-fired it in order to get it perfect. She can attribute a lot of her confidence working–and a lot of times re-working– with ceramics and color to Associate Professor Rebecca Murtaugh. While they were both working on separate projects, Rey explains how their work was constantly influenced by one another.

"It was kind of that that we were both doing our own thing in the studio," she says, "but we had each other, so if I was building, or had a really awesome result I would go to her." But Professor Murtaugh did not simply pass on advice about art, but organization as well, "She's also super organized," Rey states, "I'll get a result and won't write it down so I'll just use [the piece] and never be able to replicate it. She was a constant reminder telling me 'what if you want to use it again,'" helping her develop technical and practical as well as conceptual skills.

When asked about how Hamilton has helped her develop as an artist, Rey replied by saying, "I've begun to realize how proficient I have become in everything that I've been doing, and am impressed by how well I am able to handle technical stuff."

In terms of actual conceptual work, she says that she finds it much easier now to see how form, color and texture interact in the pieces she creates in order to more effectively convey meaning, and how important it is to understand the role each concept can play. And, of course, after viewing the gallery for myself, the ultimate question was its message. What did she want viewers to take away from the exhibit? "That art doesn't have to be that intellectual or pretentious," Rey says with a smile, "my work is pretty straightforward, so I'd say that things don't have to be that complicated in order to be cool or interesting to look at."

Approaching the Unsystematic will be on display in the Linda Johnson Gallery on the first floor of the Kennedy Arts Center through mid-September.

Preview: *Speaking Out*, a play by Bridget Lavin '18

by Josie Blatt '21
A&E Contributor

PHOTO BY LEVANA LYU '21

Bridget Lavin '18 stars in her self-written show.

On September 8-9 at 7:30 p.m., Bridget Lavin '18 will present her documentary theatre play, *Speaking Out*, in the Barrett Theatre of the Kennedy Arts Center. *The Spectator* had the chance to speak with Lavin about her production.

Speaking Out, written and performed by Lavin, is a work of documentary theatre that tells the stories of sexual assault survivors verbatim from interviews. The play also works to challenge assumptions about sexual assault on college campuses.

Lavin was inspired to write *Speaking Out* while she was studying abroad in London last spring. She was looking at various grants for summer research and wanted to find something she could work on in both London and New York.

Lavin recalled, "Documentary theatre was always something that interested me. I took Theatre 102 with Mark Cryer, and I performed a monologue from a documentary theatre play and started to learn a lot more about the genre."

Lavin has cared about the issue of sexual assault on college campuses for a long time, but she's seen a flaw in the discussion. Lavin said, "So often we talk about statistics, but we don't normally listen to the actual stories and think about what happened and how that has affected people who are survivors of sexual assault."

In addition to interviewing survivors, Lavin's writing process consisted of researching Title IX policy, rape culture and documentary theater. Much of that research went into a paper she wrote for the Levitt Center.

However, the content of *Speaking Out* is solely the words of sexual assault survivors on NESCAC campuses. For Lavin, the most challenging and frustrating part of the process was finding participants.

Lavin commented, "I didn't realize how difficult that would be. I assumed that every school was going to have an organization equivalent to S.A.V.E.S. or to S.M.A.R.T., and that they would have a contact on the website, but that was not the case. A lot of schools had administrators that were in charge of the groups, and a lot of those administrators really blocked my research. It was difficult to just get in contact with students. I think this told me a lot about the research I was doing into Title IX, and how campuses and administrations really control the message about sexual assault. If someone on these campuses wanted to speak out, they couldn't because an administrator was essentially silencing those voices."

Lavin decided to set the show in a dorm room. Lavin explained, "I created the set because it's a very confessional piece. It's about campus sexual assault, and your dorm room is one of the most private spaces on campus. If you were to just tell this story to your friend, often times it would happen within a dorm room. In keeping with the theme of college, I really wanted it to be in a dorm room because so much of your college experience happens there.

Additionally, often times campus sexual assault does happen in your dorm room, and how is your relationship to that space different when it's a place where you felt great violence and great trauma, but also potentially a place of healing because it's one of the best places you can go on a small college campus to be alone and really be with yourself."

As the only actress in her show, Lavin has to be able to switch back and forth between survivors very quickly. Moreover, she encounters challenges and rewards in her acting.

Lavin said, "It's intense. It's really difficult because all of the survivors have different ways of reacting to the trauma that they faced. It's also difficult to just talk for 40 minutes about deep and difficult things, but it feels really powerful to tell these stories."

When asked what she hopes audience members will learn from the play, Lavin responded, "Every survivor is valid. They should be believed and we should listen." She added, "It was really important to me that I let the survivors' experiences shape what the production looked like. I went in just to listen, lend an ear and believe them."

Posters advertising *Speaking Out* can be seen around campus. Even on the posters, Lavin found a way to incorporate the feelings of sexual assault survivors. She placed craft supplies in the Womxn's Center and told survivors to stop by and paint anything abstract to cathartically express their emotions while maintaining anonymity.

Lavin, a theatre and women's and gender studies double concentrator, hopes to continue with activist art in the future.

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18 47 The Spectator

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NFL Preview: Veteran quarterbacks propel Steelers and Packers to Super Bowl LII

by Patrick Malin '18
SPORTS EDITOR

It's the most wonderful time of the year: football season. After months of speculation, contract holdouts, fantasy drafts and expert analysis, the New England Patriots and Kansas City Chiefs will finally kick off to start the campaign for Super Bowl LII. Here are my (somewhat) bold predictions for the eight division champions, four wild card teams and the eventual Super Bowl champion.

NFC North- Green Bay Packers

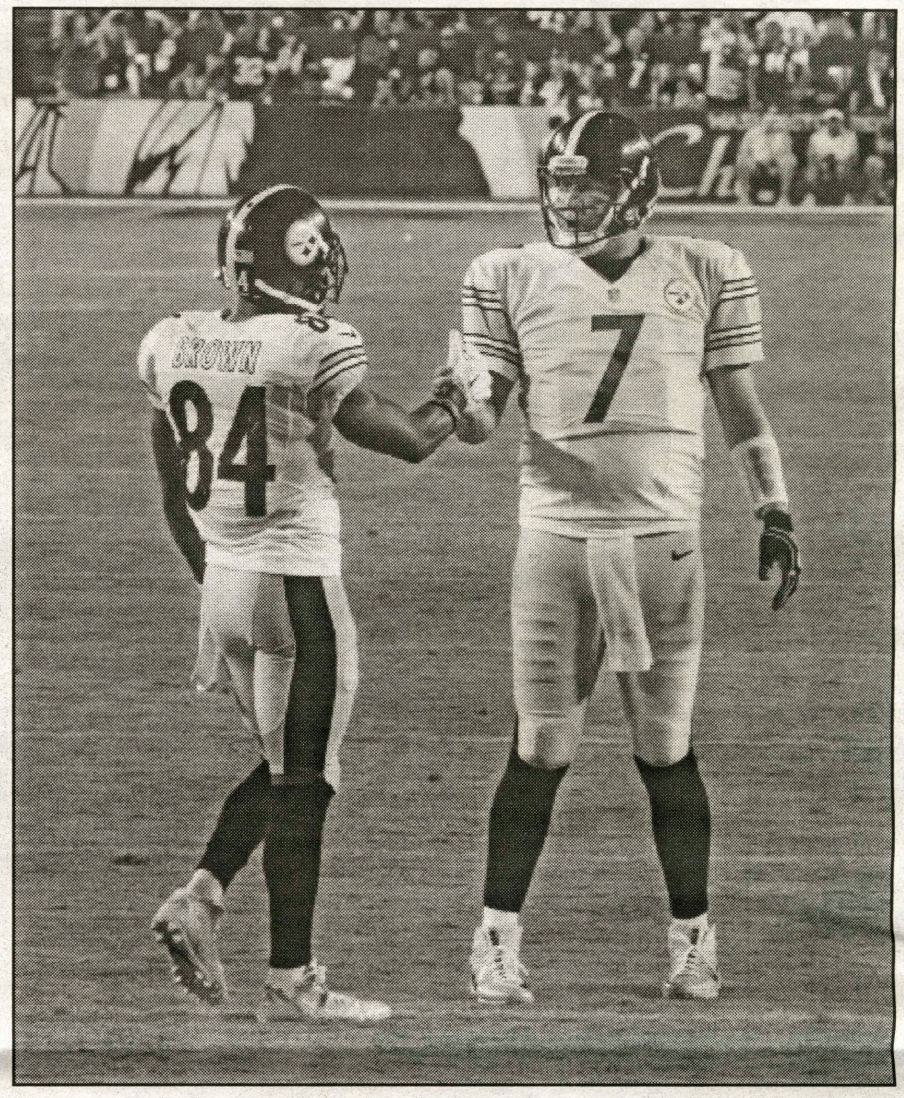
The NFC North has undergone substantial change this offseason, but the Packers remain the clear favorite to repeat as division champions. Rodgers gained a talented weapon in tight end Martellus Bennett (formerly of the Patriots), while returning much of the roster that played in last year's NFC Championship. The Packers' biggest challenge will come from the Detroit Lions. Matthew Stafford must prove himself worthy of his $135 million contract behind an offensive line replete with question marks. The Bears have a very young and talented squad, but the decision to start quarterback Mike Glennon over assumed Windy City savior, Mitch Trubisky, will prevent the Bears from competing with their divisional foes. In the frozen tundra of Minneapolis, Minnesota, a dreadful offensive line will demolish the Vikings' playoff aspirations, yet again letting down one of the league's most talented defenses.

NFC East- New York Giants (Redskins Wild Card)

The 2016 Dallas Cowboys, led by rookies Dak Prescott and Ezekiel Elliott, were the top story in the league last year, finishing with a remarkable 13-3 record but unremarkably losing in the divisional round of the playoffs as the NFC's number one seed. A six-game suspension due to domestic abuse allegations for elite running back Elliott and a struggling defense seemingly leaves the NFC East throne vacant. The New York Giants look poised to take advantage of the faltering Cowboys. The Giants' defense led by Olivier Vernon has the opportunity to be dominant once again, and Odell Beckham Jr. is the most electric playmaker (and personality) in the league. Rookie tight end Evan Engram could add another dynamic option to the Giants' offense to open up the field for Beckham Jr. The Philadelphia Eagles hope quarterback Carson Wentz willl make a leap with new wide reciever Alshon Jeffery, while the Washington Redskins will lean heavily on offseason acquisition Terrelle Pryor. The Cowboys will falter, the Eagles will stumble, the Giants will snag the division crown and the Redskins will earn a surprising wild card playoff spot.

NFC West- Seattle Seahawks

The NFC West is a two horse race between the Seattle Seahawks and Arizona Cardinals. The Los Angeles Rams' best player (defensive tackle Aaron Donald) refuses to rejoin the team, and 2016 first overall draft pick Jared Goff was terrible under center last year. The San Francisco 49ers will compete with the Jets for the worst record in the NFL this season, despite possessing budding talent on defense. The Arizona Cardinals' 2016 season was a massive disappointment to say the least. The Cards had title aspirations, only to finish the season 7-8-1. Arizona will rely on the production of David Johnson out of the backfield and a talented secondary led by Patrick Patterson and Tyrann Mathieu, but another regression from the 37-year old Carson Palmer could dismantle the Cardinals' playoff hopes. The addition of former Jets' defensive lineman Sheldon Richardson to the "Legion of Boom" in Seattle will bolster the Seahawks' NFC title aspirations. If the dicey Seattle offensive line is able to muster an ounce of protection for quarterback Russell Wilson, the Seahawks will coast to the number one slot in the West.



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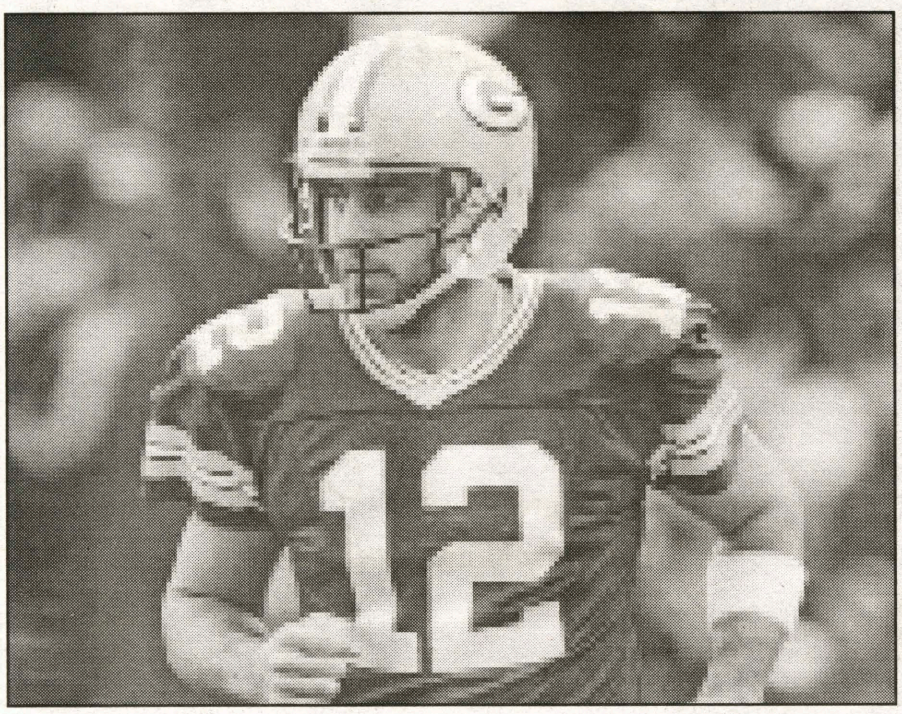
Ben Roethlisberger and Antonio Brown lead a potent Steelers offense.



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Aaron Rodgers will be a front-runner in the MVP race in 2017.

NFC South- Atlanta Falcons (Tampa Bay Buccaneers Wild Card)

I believe the NFC South will be the most competitive division in the conference during the 2017 season. It is difficult to predict how the Atlanta Falcons will rebound from the most devastating Super Bowl lost in league history, but with young talent on the defensive end in Vic Beasley, Deion Jones, Takkarist McKinley and Keanu Neal poised to have breakout seasons, the Falcons and reigning NFL MVP Matt Ryan are my choice to repeat as division champions. The Tampa Bay Buccaneers, however, will make the Falcons' lives difficult all season. Jameis Winston has been solid in his first two professional seasons, but he looks ready to move into the top tier of signal callers with the help of new targets: veteran wide receiver DeSean Jackson and rookie tight end O.J. Howard. The Buccaneers will narrowly finish as runner-ups in the NFC South, but will earn a wild card spot in the playoffs. I have little faith in a return to glory for the Panthers under a healthy Cam Newton, and a potent offensive attack will be unable to offset an atrocious defense for the New Orleans Saints.

AFC West- Los Angeles Chargers (Oakland Raiders Wild Card)

The Oakland Raiders were last season's breakout team form the AFC West, but there is reason to question their ability to defend their title. Quarterback Derek Carr is coming off a broken tibia, and Marshawn Lynch has not played a professional football game in a over a year. Apart from reigning defensive player of the year Khalil Mack, the defense is dangerously unproven, especially in the secondary. The weapons in Oakland are talented enough to repeat as a playoff team, but I expect they will earn a wild card spot, not a division championship. I believe the newly relocated Los Angeles Chargers will steal the AFC West from the Raiders in 2017. Year after year, Philip Rivers proves himself as one of the top passers in the league. Star wideout Keenan Allen returns from a season-ending injury alongside 2016 breakout receiver Tyrell Williams and talented rookie Mike Williams (pending his injury status). Defensive rookie of the year Joey Bosa is back for his sophomore season after proving himself as an elite pass-rusher, and will lead a strong defense in Los Angeles. The Kansas City Chiefs' Alex Smith will constantly be under the spotlight with rookie Patrick Mahomes, quarterback of the future, breathing down his neck. Quarterback controversy will spell disaster for the Chiefs. The Broncos did nothing to address their own quarterback dilemma, wasting another year of elite defense on a non-playoff team.

AFC North- Pittsburgh Steelers

I'll try to not let my Rust Belt prejudice

see NFL Preview, page 15

Draft strategy is vital to fantasy success

*from **Fantasy football,** page 16*

is only a 1 in 10 chance of winning, and I don't think it's worth it to spend the time to be so invested to make my team the best. I have been convinced to play this year, and am excited to see what it's like." Guerrero's explanation starts to get into the strategy side of the game.

"I play to see the wonderful feeling of defeat on the faces of my enemies. I play to laugh at my friends for being inferior to me. It's like a high that other people should really try."
—Ben Katz '20

I certainly would not call myself a young Matthew Berry, but I am proud of my success over the last couple years. Honestly, there is so much luck involved that I cannot say my strategy always works, but I do have some consistency with my approach.

The draft is huge. I like to draft high-end running backs early. They are only a couple running backs that produce in the league today, and having at least one on your team is huge. Wide receivers, on the other hand, are very deep. As more teams become more and more pass-happy, more second and even third receivers can put up big numbers. I love taking a young receiver in the late rounds; that, I think, has an upside. For quarterbacks, I do not think it's worth taking an elite one early. Instead, I wait until later in the draft and like to take two solid quarterbacks. This allows me to play whichever has the better match-up in any given week, and also provides a back-up incase of a major injury. I think tight ends and defenses are more important than most people. You are going to start one of each, so you might as well get a good one. I think there is more value in drafting a top five tight end and a top five defense than in getting another backup wide receiver or running back. For kickers, I just try to pick a team that I think has a great offense.

During the season, the waiver wire is key. If a big player gets hurt, you want to pick up their replacement. If a young player is having a breakout season, you want to snag them. I also love making trades. Try to find one person in the league that is just a huge fan of one team, normally the Patriots on this campus, and see if you can trade them a Patriots player for someone that is better. Trades are also fun to talk and banter about.

If you see me around campus, please feel free to stop me and talk shop. Best of luck to all those playing this year!

Titans bound for playoffs in 2017

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A weak AFC East could spell a return to the Super Bowl for the Patriots.

*from **NFL Preview,** page 14*

influence my AFC North prediction too heavily, but it is hard to imagine that my beloved Pittsburgh Steelers will not earn the 2017 AFC North crown. The Killer B's (Ben Roethlisberger, Antonio Brown, Le'Veon Bell and Martavis Bryant) comprise the most talented offense in the NFL when healthy. The Steelers have possessed one of the weakest pass-defenses in the league in recent history, and new signees Joe Haden and J.J. Wilcox will not be enough to prevent opposing quarterbacks from racking up yards against the "Steel Curtain." If the Steelers stars can stay on the field, they will be able to outscore any opponent and will sail to the AFC Championship game. The Cincinnati Bengals have a solid all-around roster, but neither side of the ball has the potential to be elite. Cincinnati has massive holes in its offensive line, which will be disastrous for Andy Dalton, who ranks as one of the league's worst quarterbacks under pressure. The Ravens defense is always a dominant force, but a significant lack of weapons and the uncertain health of Joe Flacco will prevent Baltimore's playoff push. The Cleveland Browns have reason to be optimistic… in 2018.

AFC East- New England Patriots

It's best not overthink it; the Patriots are going to mop up the AFC East. Everyone's least favorite team led by everyone's least favorite player look primed to pursue perfection in the 2017 NFL regular season. Even with the loss of his top target Julian Edelman, Tom Brady, the 40-year old five-time Super Bowl champion, has overcome larger obstacles, namely a 28-3 halftime deficit in Super Bowl LI. The New York Jets will struggle to win even a single game this year. The Buffalo Bills are most likely starting Nathan Peterman under center, and yes, I had to Google who that was too. The Dolphins mounted an admirable challenge to the Patriots last winter, earning a wild card berth to the playoffs. A devastating season-ending injury to starting quarterback Ryan Tannehill forced the Dolphins to resort to Jay Cutler, who is a significant downgrade from Tannehill. The Dolphins have many weapons on offense, but a signal-caller returning from retirement will limit the potential the unit has.

AFC South- Tennessee Titans (Houston Texans Wild Card)

The winner of the AFC South will be the lone team with a stable situation at quarterback, the Tennessee Titans. Marcus Mariota has an arsenal of capable receivers, a talented running back, a top-five tight end and a brick wall protecting him. The Titans added enough pieces on the defensive end to capitalize on a weak division and win the AFC South title. The Colts have a solid roster, but the uncertainty surrounding Andrew Luck's return will prevent Indianapolis from participating in the playoff hunt. Despite having a talented defense bolstered by millions spent in free agency, the Jaguars can only go as far as Blake Bortles can take them. Bortles cannot carry them very far. The Houston Texans will narrowly capture the sixth and final playoff spot in the AFC. The Texans will struggle with quarterback Tom Savage calling the shots, but when he is inevitably benched for newcomer and collegiate legend Deshaun Watson, Houston re-emerge in the AFC playoff picture. J.J. Watt and Jadeveon Clowney will wreak havoc on opposing offensive lines on their way to a first round playoff win.

AFC Championship- Pittsburgh Steelers over New England Patriots

NFC Championship- Green Bay Packers over Seattle Seahawks

Super Bowl LII- Green Bay Packers over Pittsburgh Steelers

The Vince Lombardi Trophy will return to the Midwest after Aaron Rodgers connects on a 65-yard Hail Mary at U.S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis, MN. to a chorus of boos. Nationwide cheese head orders will sky-rocket on Amazon. I will need at least two months to cope with the loss before the Minnesota Timberwolves' NBA title run.

New recruits bolster cross country depth

*from **Cross Country,** page 16*

place at the NESCAC Championship and went on to compete at Nationals as an individual last year, will undoubtedly be leading the team to success this season. According to Coach Hull, "We have a number of runners that are in position to step up and contribute at the varsity level. With such a strong core of athletes returning, I expect that we will have a number of runners that will contribute to the team scoring."

Coach Brett Hull, now in his 27th year coaching at Hamilton, has stoically led the Continentals through the strife and adversity that make many consider cross country the most challenging athletic contest, with the help of Assistant Coach John Hartpence, in his 3rd year coaching at Hamilton. The intense training that goes into distance running is indeed unparalleled by most sports. Lucas Wright '21, a newcomer to the team, joked about his pre-race preperation: "The night before strenuous workouts or races, I bathe in a tub filled with egg yolks, like the Olympians do." Wright claims the process allows him to absorb vital proteins through the pores of his skin. Although the science and benefits can certainly be questioned, the extreme measure of Wright's dedication to the succeess of the team this season is undeniable. Despite the difficulty of training, Coach Hull expressed that "Training has gone great so far, and we look forward to a challenging test this upcoming Saturday."

"We are excited to be hosting a high quality meet at a shorter length course 4K (2.5 miles) this weekend. It will give us an opportunity to see what we are up against this fall."
—Ellen Hull (head coach of women's team)

On Saturday, Sept. 9, the men's race will begin at 11:35 a.m., directly following the women's race.

H SPECTATOR SPORTS
September 7, 2017

Cross country teams open season Saturday at Hamilton Short Course Meet

by Cliff Musial '21
Sports Contributor

The starting gun on Saturday, Sept. 9, will mark the commencement of a country season, and with it the hopes of a trip to Elsah, Illinois for the Division III National Championship. Hamilton's men's and women's cross country teams have high ambitions for the upcoming season and look forward to a strong opening performance at home this weekend.

The 2017 season is looking to be one of great promise for Hamilton's women's cross country team. Through the inevitable cycle as the class of 2017 departs and the class of 2021 arrives, old faces are replaced by new. This year's senior class, however, is shaping up to lead the team to great success. Caitlin Anthony '18, Eliz Perry '18, Lilly Pieper '18, Abby Uehling '18, Hanna Jerome '18 and Michaela Guinee '18 make up a stalwart group of seniors ready to face the season's challenges. Other key returners include Andy Uribe '19, Emily Yong '19, Erica Seff '20, Courtney Brunet '20 and Ellie Williams '20.

The key to the future, however, often lies in first-years and newcomers to the team. According to Coach Ellen Hull, "We had a very good recruitment class come in this fall", with transfer Grace Heller '19, January-admit Erin Schwartz '20, Katie Cronin '21, Haley Driscoll '21, Brigit Humphreys '21, Maisie Merz '21 and Lucy Brinkman '21.

Through their teamwork and hard work, the women will undoubtedly achieve great success this season. The team has set high goals for itself, and, as Coach Hull said, "Our goals for the season are lofty but for now we are just concentrating on training and taking one week at a time. This upcoming home meet we will host twelve other colleges."

PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN HARTPENCE

The men's cross country team ranks fifth in the Regional Coaches' Poll.

see Cross Country, page 15

This upcoming Saturday, Sept. 9, both the men's and women's teams will host the first meet of the season, the Hamilton Short Course Meet. The women's race will begin at 11:00 a.m. on Hamlton's campus on the course which runs across the golf course and past the baseball fields. Coach Hull said, "We are excited to be hosting a high quality meet at a shorter length course 4K (2.5 miles) this weekend. It will give us an opportunity to see what we are up against this fall."

On the men's front, prospects also look bright. After a seventh place finish in the Atlantic Region Men's Cross Country Championship last season, Hamilton Men's Cross Country has had a strong recent history and harbors great potential for this season. Despite graduating a strong front runner, Jack Pierce '17, the team has retained much of its talent and taken on a strong new lineup of first-years from the class of 2021. Henry Whipple '18, who finished in 16th

Fantasy football causes intense competition across campus during NFL season

by Robert Berk '20
Staff Writer

This Thursday night the New England Patriots will host the Kansas City Chiefs to kick off the NFL season. While some might be watching the game because they are Patriots or Chiefs fans, others will be watching for their fantasy teams. Fantasy football is a 70 billion dollar industry, according to Forbes magazine, and draws millions of participants every season.

Last week we had a *Spectator* sports section meeting; I was almost late and had to run over because of a fantasy football draft. Over the summer, I thought I was not going to be in any fantasy leagues, but that draft was the first of three. One league is with my family, another is with friends from high school and the third is with Hamilton friends. I was wondering, is it worth it or is it a waste of time? Well, clearly I think it is fun and valuable; I think it's a great way to stay connected with friends and make the football season more enjoyable. I spoke with some students about their views on fantasy football, and the feedback was very mixed.

Ishan Bhatia '20 plays fantasy football, "because it's fun with friends, and it helps me keep up with the NFL season when there is money on the line." I followed up by asking if he was concerned that it was a waste of time. He did not think so, saying, "And it's never a waste of time if you can make money from it." Jack Carroll '20 agreed with Bhatia. He added, "I usually play and enjoy it. I'm not sure why I'm not playing this year, I'm sure in a couple weeks I'll wish I was in a league."

On the other hand, Cam Baker '20 and Cole Kroninger '20, are not fans of fantasy football. Baker said, "I don't play and I'm not very interested. I'd rather spend my time doing something else I'll enjoy more." Kroninger emphasized this point and added, "I watch the Patriots games, but don't want to feel like I have to watch all the other ones too." Keith Ruggles '20 was somewhere in the middle. He said, "I dabble with fantasy football. It's a fun way to pass some time and be invested in otherwise meaningless football games. I used to just follow the Patriots, but now I find myself checking the box scores of all the games."

Fantasy football can get really intense, competitive and personal. When asked why he plays, Ben Katz '20 responded, "I play to see the wonderful feeling of defeat on the faces of my enemies. I play to laugh at my friends for being inferior to me. It's like a high that other people should really try." Well that certainly is an interesting take on what most people consider a fun thing to do with friends. Cesar Guerrero '20 had a much more mainstream take on fantasy football. He explained his neutral stance, "I love football, don't get me wrong. I grew up playing and played all through high school. I am a huge fan and watch as many games as I can. I can devote a chunk of my Sunday to watching games, but I don't want to spend the week thinking about it. At the same time, I don't want to throw away money playing in a league, but not being competitive. There

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Berk recommends drafting runnning backs like LeSean McCoy in the early rounds, due to a lack of depth at the position.